

Senator Mitchell said he is often asked whether there are common lessons that can be drawn from his experience in this Senate and at the peace table in Belfast.

Yes, he said. And among the most important is this:

"There is no such thing as a conflict that can't be ended. Conflicts are created and sustained by human beings. They can be ended by human beings."

That is a lesson worth remembering as this new Congress begins.

The sixth speaker in the leader's lecture series is also a friend to many of us—a man to whom I owe a personal debt of gratitude and for whom I have the greatest respect: Robert J. Dole.

For 18 months, he and I served as leaders of our parties.

That was 6 years ago. My party had just done the unthinkable. We had lost the majority in both the House and the Senate. Not only was Senator Dole now the majority leader—a position I had hoped to hold—but it was also widely assumed that he would run against a Democratic President the next year.

We could have had a terrible relationship. The fact that we did not was due to Senator Dole's love of this body and this Nation, and to his fundamental sense of fairness and decency.

He served as Republican leader for 11 years—longer than any Republican in history. In all, he spent 10,000 days in this Senate. Of those 10,000 days, he said, a few stood out especially vividly.

One day that stood out, he said, was when he invited former Senator George McGovern to join the congressional delegation attending the funeral of former First Lady Pat Nixon:

(A reporter asked George why he should honor the wife of a man with whom he had waged a bitter battle for the White House. Senator McGovern replied: "You can't keep on campaigning forever." And George was right.

It seems to me that is another lesson worth remembering as this Congress begins.

The seventh speaker, former Vice President Dan Quayle, recalled as one of his proudest achievements in the Senate was working with TED KENNEDY to strengthen America's job-training programs in the early 1980s.

He also said that people often ask him how being Vice President compares with being a Senator.

He tells them: "When you are Vice President, it is always impressed on you that you are No. 2 . . ."

But "when you are a Senator, you are your own person. You have real autonomy. You make independent decisions . . . You are, in a way, an independent conscience in this institution.

The best word to describe a Senator is: free. He or she is free to stand up and debate, free to speak his or her mind, free to act according to his or her best judgment.

"I believe you would concur that the Senate's best debates," he added, "are bipartisan debates."

These are seven remarkable leaders who achieved the highest positions in

their parties—who know what it means to be in Teddy Roosevelt's "arena."

To them, bipartisanship is not emasculating. It is ennobling. It is not betraying the people who sent us here. It is the only hope we have of serving them.

What is bipartisanship in the 107th Congress? We will need to find the right answer to that question if we are to serve our country well. We will not be able to quantify bipartisanship. Bipartisanship is not a mathematical formula. It is a spirit. It is a way of working together that tolerates open debate. It recognizes principled compromise. It means respecting the right of each Senator to speak his or her mind, and vote his or her conscience. And it means recognizing that we must do business differently after an election that gave us a 50–50 Senate and an almost evenly divided House. Above all, it means putting the national interest ahead of personal or party interests.

This year, as I said, is a historic year for the Senate. This past year was also historic. It was the 200th anniversary of Congress' first meeting in this building.

As part of the anniversary celebration, artists are restoring what are known as the Brumidi Corridors on the first floor of the Capitol's Senate wing.

The Corridors were painted more than 150 years ago by an Italian immigrant named Constantino Brumidi, the same man who painted the ceiling in the Rotunda.

He has been called "America's Michelangelo"—and with good reason.

He spent 25 years of his life painting scenes on the walls and ceilings of this Capitol. It was a labor of love for the country he chose as his home.

I think I must have walked through those corridors 1,000 times over the years. Every time, I marvel at Brumidi's talents and their beauty.

Over the years, Brumidi's original work was covered with layers of paint and varnish and dirt. Now, restorers are scraping those layers off. And what they are revealing beneath is an even more beautiful depiction of Brumidi's imagination over 100 years ago.

I believe the same can be true of this Senate. Many times over the last several years, a layer of bitter partisanship has settled over this body. Even with that disadvantage, it has remained the greatest legislative body in the history of the world, and one in which I am proud to serve. But think how much more effective it could be if we could wash away the partisanship.

At the first Leaders' Lecture, Senator LOTT compared the Old Senate Chamber to this Chamber. He said that the Old Chamber was more intimate, and more beautiful. And he was right. But this Chamber has one profound distinction that makes all the difference. The Old Chamber celebrates our past. In this Chamber, it is our privilege—and our responsibility—to chart our Nation's future.

I look forward to working with Senators on both sides of the aisle, and with our new President, to find honorable ways to do the work we have all been sent here to do.

I yield the floor.

#### CONGRATULATING THE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the majority leader leaves the floor, I want to tell him how much I appreciate not only the content of what he has stated but the expression that was given. We have a lot of work to do.

As our leader, we Democrats have watched you over these past 6 years, and have marveled at the work you have been able to do. I do agree with you; the Senate has changed remarkably in its composition. It has improved so much with the addition of women. Now 20 percent of our conference is made up of women. We are a better Senate for that having occurred. We are going to continue to get better.

I say to the majority leader that we support you. We acknowledge there are some things we need to work out. I hope in this tone of compromise that the first thing the Republicans will do, during the time they are in the minority status, would be to acknowledge that the Senate is 50–50, and as a result of that, because most of the work is done in committees, we have an arrangement where the committees are evenly divided. I know our leader has worked hard to accomplish that. I hope that can be done between you and Senator LOTT. I hope we will not have to have filibusters by the Republicans on a resolution to establish what is a fair, equally divided committee structure in the Senate.

I also acknowledge the leader for his statement about what we need to do. We have so many things to do: With education, health care, making sure that workers are protected, dealing with the difficult problems we have with Medicare, and paying down this huge debt that we owe. I hope we can keep our eye on the prize and not get burdened with partisan squabbling.

So as one of your loyal lieutenants, I look forward to this next Congress and accomplishing things for the people of the State of Nevada, the people of South Dakota, the people of Louisiana, and the whole country, so that we can walk out of here as proud, when this Congress ends, as we are at the beginning of this Congress.

Again, I congratulate and applaud the majority leader for his remarks.

#### THANKING THE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me thank the distinguished assistant Democratic leader, the now assistant majority leader, for his kind remarks and for all he has done for the Senate and for our caucus.